(d) Central excise duty on PP granules being raw material is 35 per cent. Finished products produced out of PP granules attract different rates of import duty with a maximum rate of 85 per cent.

(e) and (f) No misuse of notification No. 32/93-Cus. has so far come to notice.

Appointment of SC/ST Candidates in Regional Rurlal Banks

909. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have exempted Regional Rural Banks from giving appointment to candidates selected by BSRB under special recruitment drive for filling up SC/ST reservation banking in those banks;

(b) if not, on what basis Tungabahandra Gramin Bank Bellary (Karnataka) did not issue appointment letters to such candidates for the last two years in respect of Officers cadres; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to fill up backlog of SC/ST vacancies in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) No, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had advised in 1990 all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), including Tunghabhadra Gramin Bank, to conduct a Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST candidates to fill-up the backlog vacancies.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foregoing World Bank Loans

910. CHAWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to forgo One bill on dollars project loans from World Bank which were already approved and sanctioned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) and (b) joint review was recently conducted with the World Bank to identify potential savings arising mainly out of exchange rate adjustments, as well as unutilised commitments on non-performing project components. While protecting the physical parameters identified in the various project agreements, an amount equivalent to US $ 1234.4 million has been identified for cancellation. This would also enable the provision of new assistance, as well as the redeployment of soft IDA assistance to strengthen investment in the social sectors.

Norms for Banks

911. SHRI SURESH PACHAURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to adopt more rigorous norms and restrict its capital contributions to viable and profit making public sector banks from the next financial year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the norms likely to be adopted in regard to loss making and weaker banks; and

(d) whether Government purpose to make them also viable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) to (d) In the Budget Speech, it was mentioned that while making capital contribution to the banks during the year 1993-94, banks will be required to make specific commitments that their future management practices would ensure a high level of portfolio quality so that their existing problems do not recur. There is no proposal to restrict capital contribution to viable and profit-making public sector banks.

Arrears to Employees of Regional Rural Banks

912. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Industrial Tribunal gave an Award revising wage structure of Regional Rural Bank employees for their benefit;

(b) if so, whether the employees have been paid the consequential arrears arising out of the revision of wages since they became eligible for it; and

(c) if not, since when the matter is pending and by when the payments will be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) Government had appointed a National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) to consider the demands of the Regional Rural Bank employees for parity in respect of salary structure with the employees of sponsor banks. The Tribunal in its Award, inter-alia, held that officers and other employees of RRBs be entitled to pay scales, allowances and other benefits on par with the officers and other employees of comparble level in corresponding posts of sponser bnks with effect from 1-9-1987. The employees of RRBs are being paid revised salary with effect from January, 1991. The payment of arrears to the employees of RRBs involves an expenditure of around Rs. 225 crores. As RRBs does not have funds of this order, the payment of arrears has not been made by them.

FICCI Discussion about anomalies in duty Structure

913. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

SHRI VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by its President Mr. Kantikumar R. Podar met him recently in connection with the anomalies in duty structure; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the discussion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) A delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by its President Mr. Kanti Kumar R. Podar met the Finance Minister on 7th April, 1993.

(b) After discussion, the Federation has sent a note containing suggestions both on direct taxes and indirect taxes. This note brings out some anomalies as perceived by the Federation. FICCI, being an apex federation; their points are always given due consideration.